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Letter dated 7 July 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the "Decision on the report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa", adopted by the African Union at its twenty-fifth ordinary session, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 14 and 15 June 2015.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Téte **António**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

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Annex to the letter dated 7 July 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Decision on the report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa*

[Original: English and French]

The Assembly

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Council for Peace and Security on its activities and the peace and security situation in Africa;

2. **Expresses satisfaction with** the efforts deployed at the continental and regional level to address the scourge of conflicts and promote lasting peace and security. The Assembly notes with concern that, despite its efforts, Africa continues to face serious conflicts and crises with devastating humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences;

3. **Urgently appeals for** stronger action in the area of conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as in the area of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. To this end, the Assembly stresses the critical importance of promoting good governance and respect for the rule of law, in keeping with the commitments made by Member States within the framework of relevant African Union instruments;

4. **Underlines** the critical role of women in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, and welcomes all the steps taken by the Peace and Security Council and the Commission in this respect;

5. **Notes with satisfaction** the significant progress Côte d'Ivoire continues to make in the area of post-conflict reconstruction, and **encourages** all stakeholders to work to ensure the success of the presidential elections scheduled for October 2015. The Council **commends** the Government of Guinea-Bissau for the reforms already embarked upon to promote stability and ensure economic recovery. The Assembly **calls upon** all the countries and organizations that made pledges at the donor round table held in Brussels, Belgium, on 25 March 2015, to honour their commitments as soon as possible. The Assembly welcomes the strides that Tunisia continues to make after the completion of the transition period. The Assembly **reaffirms** its support for the efforts aimed at ensuring stabilization and socioeconomic recovery in Madagascar, **takes note** of the decision of the High Constitutional Court of 12 June 2015 rejecting the resolution impeaching the President of the Republic, and **calls upon** all the parties to comply with the said decision and work towards the creation of a stable environment to enable Madagascar to continue to enjoy international support;

6. **Also notes with satisfaction** the end of the Ebola epidemic in Liberia and the significant progress made by Guinea and Sierra Leone in combating the epidemic. The Assembly **underscores** the need for sustained mobilization in order to completely eradicate the scourge, and to provide more economic and financial support to ensure sustainable economic recovery in the affected countries;

* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.583 (XXV).

7. **Welcomes** the signing of the Malian Peace and Reconciliation Agreement resulting from the Algiers Process in Bamako on 15 May 2015 by the Malian Government, the Algiers Platform Movement and some groups of the Coordination Movement of the Azawad (CMA). The Assembly **takes note** of the commitment of CMA to sign the Agreement in Bamako on 20 June 2015 following the conclusion in Algiers on 5 June 2015, the record of conclusions of the preparatory consultations on the implementation of the peace and reconciliation agreement in Mali, as well as the security arrangements for the cessation of hostilities. The Assembly **expresses** the full support of the African Union for the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement and **calls for** the strict implementation of the Agreement and the mobilization of the needed resources. The Assembly expresses its deep appreciation to the Mediation team led by Algeria for their efforts; **affirms** that only the Malian Defence and Security Forces have the right and legitimacy to occupy the entire national territory within the framework of their sovereign mission to protect borders, persons and their property, and any occupation by non-State irregular forces is illegal; and therefore **demands** that such occupation should cease;

8. **Commends** the authorities and the other stakeholders in Burkina Faso for their commitment to a peaceful and successful transition, and **urges** them to persevere in their efforts in a spirit of consensus and harmony. The Assembly **makes an urgent appeal** to Member States and the entire international community to mobilize the required financial resources and logistical support for the holding of presidential, legislative and local elections scheduled to take place between October 2015 and January 2016. The Assembly **also welcomes** the successful holding of the Bangui Forum for Reconciliation in the Central African Republic and **urges** the Central African stakeholders to effectively implement the recommendations of the Forum. The Assembly stresses the need for the holding of elections in order to complete the transition in the Central African Republic by the end of 2015, in accordance with the communiqué of the sixteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), held in N'Djamena on 25 May 2015;

9. **Stresses** the need to revive the implementation process of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework Agreement for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and to strengthen its governance structures, and **provides its full support** for the initiatives agreed upon by the guarantors of the Framework Agreement at their second meeting in Johannesburg on 13 June 2015. The Assembly **reiterates** the need for urgent and effective neutralization of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and all the other negative forces and armed groups operating in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, in this regard, **encourages** the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue the military offensives initiated for that purpose, **invites** the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations to establish, through the ongoing strategic dialogue between them, conditions conducive to the resumption of military cooperation between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and **encourages** the rapid repatriation of elements of FDLR who have already been disarmed and are in transit camps, as well as their dependants. The Assembly **stresses** the need for speedy implementation of the December 2013 Nairobi Declaration on the Kampala Dialogue between the Congolese Government and the Movement of 23 March;

10. **Welcomes** the progress made in the political process in Somalia towards the realization of Vision 2016, and **urges** the Somali stakeholders to stay on course in order to fulfil the aspirations of their people to peace, security and stability. The Assembly **pays tribute** to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the troop- and police-contributing countries for the achievements made on the ground and for their sacrifices, and **calls on** the United Nations and the other international partners to extend to the Mission the support that is commensurate with the challenges at hand, bearing in mind that, in deploying AMISOM, the African Union is active on behalf of the United Nations Security Council, which has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security;

11. **Reiterates its concern** at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and **requests** the Commission to take the required initiatives to overcome the challenges at hand. The Assembly **also calls for** continued efforts to facilitate the normalization of the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea;

12. **Reiterates** the African Union's support to the National Dialogue Initiative in the Sudan and calls on all stakeholders to work towards its successful implementation, with the support of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), in order to address comprehensively the challenges facing the country. The Assembly **calls on** the parties in Darfur and South Kordofan and Blue Nile to demonstrate renewed commitment towards achieving a cessation of hostilities in these regions, in order to facilitate the political process;

13. **Encourages** the Sudan and South Sudan, with the continued support of AUHIP, to expedite their efforts towards the full implementation of the September 2012 Cooperation Agreement, and to take the necessary steps to address the issue of the Abyei Area;

14. **Reiterates** its support to the ongoing efforts to promote a regional and holistic approach to the challenges of peace, security, stability and development in the Horn of Africa, in support of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and **encourages** the Commission, through AUHIP, to expedite its efforts in this respect;

15. **Expresses its concern** in the face of the grave crisis in Burundi and the risk that the current political impasse poses to the gains made by the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and to the Comprehensive Cease-fire Agreement of 2003. The Council condemns all acts of violence in Burundi, calls for respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and urges all the Burundian stakeholders to uphold the spirit of dialogue and consensus and to find a lasting political solution to the current crisis in accordance with the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution of Burundi. The Assembly expresses its full support to the efforts of the East African Community (EAC) and those being deployed by the Chairperson of the Commission; welcomes the work of the Peace and Security Council in finding a solution; and calls for the implementation of the relevant decisions;

16. **Reiterates the African Union's deep concern** at the prevailing dire security and humanitarian situation on the ground in South Sudan. The Assembly **strongly condemns** all the ceasefire violations committed by the parties, as well as the attacks and other egregious acts of violence and abuses of human rights against

civilians and humanitarian agencies. The Assembly **notes with disappointment** the continued impasse in the peace process, and **calls on** the parties to demonstrate the required political will and commitment to end the current tragedy in their country. The Assembly **reiterates** the African Union's support for the IGAD-led efforts and, in this respect, **welcomes** the operationalization of the African Union High-level ad hoc Committee for South Sudan, as well as the appointment of former President Alpha Oumar Konaré of Mali as the African Union High Representative for South Sudan, and **expresses appreciation** to the Peace and Security Council for remaining actively seized of the matter. The Assembly **also welcomes** the initiative taken by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and the African National Congress (ANC) to facilitate dialogue within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The Assembly **calls for** enhanced humanitarian support for the needy populations;

17. **Strongly condemns** the continuation of hostilities in Libya and the attacks against civilians and **reiterates its grave concern** over the worsening humanitarian crisis. The Assembly also **expresses deep concern** about the worsening scourge of terrorism in Libya and **reaffirms** the need for continued and renewed efforts to fight against this scourge. The Assembly **supports** the legitimate Government in its efforts to fight terrorism in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2214 (2015). The Assembly **urges** all Libyan stakeholders to engage more seriously on the path of dialogue and reconciliation, bearing in mind that there can be no military solution to the conflict, and **expresses full support** to the United Nations-led political dialogue. The Assembly **commends** the neighbouring countries for their role in the search for a solution, **welcomes** the final communiqué of the 6th meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Libya's Neighbours, held in N'Djamena, Chad, on 5 June 2015, and **reiterates** the key role of the International Contact Group for Libya (ICG-L) and **encourages** the Commission, working with the United Nations, to enhance the effectiveness of the Group;

18. **Notes with deep concern** the continued impasse in the search for a solution to the conflict in Western Sahara and **underlines** the urgent need for renewed international efforts to facilitate an early resolution of the conflict. In this respect, the Assembly, recalling the advisory opinion given by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 16 October 1975, **calls on** the United Nations General Assembly to determine a date for the holding of the self-determination referendum for the people of Western Sahara and protect the integrity of the Western Sahara as a non-self-governing territory from any act which may undermine it. The Assembly **recalls** the Peace and Security Council communiqué of 27 March 2015 and, in this context, **renews** its full support to the African Union Special Envoy for Western Sahara, former President Joaquim Chissano. The Assembly **urges** the Security Council to fully assume its responsibilities, as well as to effectively address the issues of the respect for human rights and the illegal exploitation of the Territory's natural resources. The Assembly **encourages** the Chairperson of the Commission to pursue her efforts, based on international legality, and **calls on** Member States to make available the necessary capacity-building support to the people of Western Sahara;[1]

19. **Reiterates its deep concern** about the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism on the continent and **condemns in the strongest terms** the various terrorist acts committed on the continent, including in Somalia and Kenya by al-Shabaab, in north-eastern Nigeria and the neighbouring countries by Boko Haram,

[1] Reservation entered by the Republic of Senegal on paragraph 18.

in Mali and the larger Sahel, as well as in North Africa, by various terrorist groups. The Assembly **welcomes** the efforts and initiatives aimed at neutralizing the various terrorist groups active on the continent. The Assembly **emphasizes** the relevance of the steps agreed upon in the communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council at its 455th meeting, held at the level of Heads of State and Government in Nairobi, Kenya, on 2 September 2014, and **calls on** Member States to deploy additional efforts towards the implementation of the relevant provisions of the communiqué. The Assembly **requests** the Peace and Security Council to convene, before the year 2015, a meeting, at ministerial level, to review the implementation status of the Nairobi communiqué;

20. **Commends** the member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin for their sustained efforts to fully operationalize the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) established to combat the Boko Haram terrorist group, and **calls for** enhanced international support for MNJTF, and **welcomes** the steps taken by the Commission in support of the efforts of the LCBC countries and Benin. The Assembly **takes note with satisfaction** of the progress made by the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA), and **urges** continued efforts to fully neutralize LRA;

21. **Welcomes** the adoption by the Peace and Security Council of the Common African Position on the Review of the United Nations Peace Operations being undertaken by the High-level Panel appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and **calls on** all Member States to defend this position during the deliberations of the relevant United Nations organs on the report of the Panel;

22. **Recalls** the decision adopted at its 23rd ordinary session, held in Malabo in June 2014, in which it welcomed the proposal by Togo to host a conference on maritime security and safety, and **decides**, in view of the importance of the issue and based on the recommendations of the meeting of the Ministers of Defence and Security held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in May 2015, to transform this conference, scheduled to take place from 2 to 7 November 2015, into an extraordinary African Union Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, and **encourages** the Commission and the Togolese Government to expedite the preparation process of this event;

23. **Commends** the Peace and Security Council for the successful organization of its Retreat on Issues **and** Challenges in the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa, held in Swakopmund, Namibia, from 21 to 23 May 2015; **decides** to endorse the Conclusions and the concrete measures contained therein; and **requests** the Peace and Security Council to take steps towards their effective implementation.